



# Basic Training Information

## A/1-79<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery

17 March 2015

### ***FROM THE COMMANDER:***

Greetings!

I am Captain Jonathan S. Wilder, your Soldier's Battery Commander during his/her Initial Entry Training in the United States Army. Your Soldier arrived safely at Fort Sill and has begun Basic Combat Training in Alpha Battery, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion 79<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment (A/1-79FA).

During the nine week training period, your Soldier will learn the basic skills that are required to survive and win on today's modern battlefield. The training will be very strenuous and demanding, but the tasks performed will help each Soldier develop the discipline and self-confidence necessary to be a successful Soldier in today's Army. I want you to know that the cadre who will be training your Soldier are a very dedicated group of professionals who are genuinely concerned about the health, welfare and training of each Soldier. We consider your Soldier to be the Army's most important asset and I will personally ensure that we make your Soldier's basic training experience both challenging and rewarding.

### ***YOUR SOLDIER MAY CALL HOME SOON!***

You should have received a phone call from your Soldier by now. Within the first 72 hours of physically arriving to Fort Sill your Soldier was given the opportunity to make a short phone call. I also ensured that your Soldier made another short phone call, to the person of their choosing, within 72 hours of reporting to Alpha Battery. During the cycle your Soldier will have the opportunity to earn phone privileges during each phase change (about every three weeks). Please know that, although it is rare, this privilege may be denied for misconduct or poor performance.

For the duration of Basic Combat Training your Soldier will not have access to their personal cell phones except when authorized.

### ***FAMILY READINESS GROUP.***

Family and friends are a big part of the Army family and although your loved one cannot call each night to keep you informed of their progress and achievements, we will attempt to bridge that gap through frequent updates to the Battery's Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/alphathunder179>. If you simply type in "A/1-79FA" in the search engines "Google" or "Bing" the first result should be the battery Facebook page. Additionally, if you need to push pertinent, important, non-emergency information to your Soldier, please use the following email address: [alphathunder179@gmail.com](mailto:alphathunder179@gmail.com). Please understand that though we do check this email frequently (i.e. every 2-3 days), we are indeed quite busy and may not respond immediately.

Finally, there is a new program that gives new Army Families the opportunity to learn about the Army called the "Army Family Team Building" (AFTB) Program. This program will provide you with a great deal of information about what your Soldier is learning and will help you understand what he/she is talking about when they do have an opportunity to call. I have included a flier in this letter with all of the needed instructions in order to complete this online training. All individuals who complete this online training and inform us in accordance with the flier will receive recognition of their accomplishment and a certificate of training at Family Day! So please participate in this training!

### ***YOUR SOLDIER WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU!***

Whether or not this is your Soldier's first time away from home, I am certain that he/she will miss you a great deal. I strongly encourage you to write at every opportunity and you can be assured that your Soldier will have ample time to write you as well. Please be aware that this training installation receives an enormous amount of mail for thousands of trainees every day. It will take longer for your Soldier to receive mail than it will be for you to receive mail from your Soldier. Rest assured, your mail will find its way to your Soldier as soon as possible. When writing your Soldier, use the following address to ensure delivery:

**Rank Last Name, First Name MI.**

**A/1-79 FA, Platoon # (Example: 4<sup>th</sup> PLT), Class 34-15**

**6007 ROTHWELL ST**

**FORT SILL, OK 73503-5001.**

\* Abbreviations for US Army ranks are PVT for Private (E-1), PV2 for Private (E-2), PFC for Private First Class (E-3), and SPC for Specialist (E-4). If you do not yet know your loved one's Platoon (PLT#), and or rank, don't worry we will ensure they will get your letters; however, it will make it easier to distribute the mail to all 128 Soldiers if you include it in future letters.

Packages are not necessary because your Soldier is able to buy additional items here at our local Post Exchange. However, if you choose to send your Soldier a package, please observe the following guidelines:

- ✓ No alcohol or products containing alcohol, tobacco, or narcotics
- ✓ No weapons to include knives and multi-tools
- ✓ No radios, TVs, cell phones, cameras, or other electronic devices
- ✓ No pornographic or morally questionable materials or any other magazines
- ✓ **No food items**
- ✓ **When in doubt, just send letters**

### ***WHAT CAN I DO TO ASSIST MY SOLDIER DURING TRAINING?***

The best thing you can do is write positive letters. Soldiers look forward to daily mail call. Your Soldier is incredibly busy so if you do not receive a reply within the first couple of weeks, continue to send positive letters to motivate them until they can reply.

### ***HOW ARE THEY TREATING MY SOLDIER?***

Relax, your Soldier is not reliving those first 30 minutes of the movie Full Metal Jacket. Today's Soldiers are treated fairly, firmly, and with dignity and respect. Abuse of any kind is not tolerated. Drill Sergeants are selected from among the best Non-commissioned Officers in the Army, and are highly qualified to train recruits. Only authorized and vetted personnel are allowed to interact in any way with your Soldier.

### ***MAY MY SOLDIER ATTEND RELIGIOUS SERVICES?***

Yes. Soldiers have the opportunity to attend weekly religious services of various denominations. They are allowed to attend a religious service and religious education classes as available through the Chaplain's office. Soldiers are also permitted to seek counseling from an Army Chaplain who is on call 24 hours a day.

### ***WHAT HAPPENS IF MY SOLDIER FAILS A PORTION OF BASIC TRAINING?***

If your Soldier misses or fails a task required for graduation, he/she will receive another opportunity to make up the training. If a Soldier still fails to meet the requirement, I will decide whether or not that Soldier will graduate in accordance with the appropriate regulations.



### ***IN CASE OF EMERGENCIES***

Should an emergency arise, the best means of notifying your Soldier is through your local American Red Cross. The field office in your area will contact the Lawton, Oklahoma field office, who will contact me. In extreme cases, such as serious injury or death affecting immediate family members, an emergency leave of absence may be granted. Other leaves of absence during training are not normally authorized. If you are unable to find/reach your local American Red Cross, the national line can be reached at 1-800-733-2767.

### ***WHAT HAPPENS IF MY SOLDIER IS INJURED DURING TRAINING?***

Should any injury occur, your Soldier will receive appropriate medical attention from Fort Sill's professional medical staff. Additionally, Drill Sergeants are Combat Lifesaver qualified and carry medical aid kits to all training.

### ***MEDICAL INFORMATION RELATED TO MY SOLDIER***

Due to the Privacy Act and HIPAA, I nor my Cadre have the legal authority to release ANY medical information regarding illness, injury, or otherwise to you. However, your Soldier is authorized to do so if he/she so chooses.

### ***FAMILY DAY and GRADUATION INFORMATION***

Family Day activities will showcase skills learned by your Soldiers, promotions and award presentations. This will be the first time you will be able to see your Soldier and they look forward to it greatly as I am sure you do. **Family Day will be held at 6007 Rothwell St. FT Sill, OK 73503** and will start at **10:00 A.M. on 13 May 2015**. This location may change and will be published in the graduation letter and on the battery Facebook page. Soldiers will have the opportunity to take an off-post pass with you following Family Day but must return to the unit that evening **no later than 7:45 P.M.** Provided your Soldier meets all basic training requirements, your Soldier will **graduate at 1:00 P.M. on Friday, 14 May 2015** at the **Hilton Garden Inn** located at **135 NW 2nd St, Lawton, OK 73507**. After graduation, your Soldier will report to their next duty station for Advanced Individual Training.

Please know that there will be some Soldiers who will not graduate due to various reasons. Therefore, please have a candid conversation with your Soldier so that you may make your reservations for lodging in advance. If for any reason it is determined that your Soldier does not meet the requirements for graduation, he/she will be afforded the opportunity to make a phone call to a person of his/her choosing to inform potential graduation attendees of his/her not graduating.

### ***ON-POST ACCESS PASS***

Within the last few months Fort Sill made a change to the requirements to gain access to the installation. Each person over the age of 16 must now individually mail/submit a FS Form 118A for a background check to the Fort Sill Visitor Control Center (VCC). Once the VCC receives your forms, they will do the background check and inform us that the forms are ready for pick-up. We will then mail them back to you with my graduation letter in Week 5 of the training cycle. I have attached a copy of this form for you but you need to fill it out and mail it to the VCC at the following address:

**Visitor Control Center  
T6701 Sheridan Rd.  
Fort Sill, OK 73503**

When filling out this form, please put your Soldier's rank and full name as well as the class number (Class 34-15) underneath "Specify Below" in block IIb (purpose of visit). This will assist the VCC in ensuring your pass forms get back to us in a timely manner so we can return them to you. Finally, you MUST bring these forms with you or you will have to re-do this process upon arrival and before admittance to the installation.

### ***POINTS OF CONTACT***

A great deal of information is published both on the Facebook page and a follow-up Graduation letter will be mailed later in the cycle. If this letter, the Facebook page, or the Graduation letter do not contain the information you need, or if there is a specific issue related to your Soldier, please feel free to contact any of the following people by phone, mail, or email:



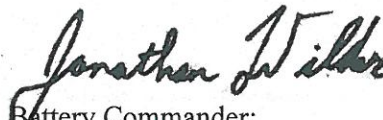
Battery First Sergeant

***SFC James A. Malcolm***

Phone: (580) 442-1309

Blackberry: 580-917-6352

e-mail: [james.a.malcolm3.mil@mail.mil](mailto:james.a.malcolm3.mil@mail.mil)



Battery Commander:

***CPT Jonathan S. Wilder***

Phone: (580) 442-1308

e-mail: [jonathan.s.wilder.2.mil@mail.mil](mailto:jonathan.s.wilder.2.mil@mail.mil)



## **Army Family Team Building (AFTB) For Basic Training Solder Families**

- **Want to Know More About The Army?**
- **Having a Hard Time Understanding Army Lingo?**
- **Take Online Training To Become a Better Army Family Member While Your Soldier is in Basic and Earn a Certificate and Be Recognized during Family Day.**

### **Instructions:**

- (1) **Sign-up online through this link for AFTB Classes**  
<https://www.myarmyonesource.com>
- (2) **E-mail/Facebook your Battery FRG Leader and Battalion Chaplain Assistant your intent to take the classes. Also let us know when you have them done.**
- (3) **Show up on Family Day to receive your certificate.**

For more Information contact the FRG Leader @

Battalion Chaplain Assistant Contact info @ 580-442-1328 [peter.l.bottenberg2.mil@mail.mil](mailto:peter.l.bottenberg2.mil@mail.mil)

# REQUEST FOR UNESCORTED INSTALLATION VISITOR ACCESS TO FORT SILL

## DATA REQUIRED BY THE PRIVACY ACT OF 1974

**AUTHORITY:** Title 5, USC 3331, 552, 552a; 10 USC 10204; Executive Orders (EO) 10450, 10865, and 12333.

**PRINCIPAL PURPOSE:** The information requested is for the purpose of granting access to the Fort Sill Installation.

**ROUTINE USES:** Basis for determination of qualifications and background information for eligibility for access to Fort Sill Installation. The Social Security Number (SSN), required for record accuracy, is requested pursuant to EO 9397.

**DISCLOSURE:** Providing requested information, to include your SSN, is voluntary. However, your access may not be granted if all requested information is not provided. Contents shall not be disclosed, discussed, or shared with individuals unless they have a direct need-to-know in performance of their official duties. Deliver this document directly to the intended recipient. **DO NOT** drop off, send to a third-party or send via e-mail **unencrypt**. Sending Personally Identifiable Information (PII) via regular e-mail is highly discouraged. Regular e-mail is sent "in the clear" and therefore is subject to interception by hackers. There are many other options for sending private, sensitive information or PII securely through e-mail. Please research these options and use them accordingly. This document contains personal or privileged information and should be treated as "For Official Use Only (FOUO)".

## PART I - APPLICANT INFORMATION

a. LAST NAME:	b. FIRST NAME:	c. MIDDLE INITIAL:
d. GRADE/RANK/STATUS:	e. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER:	f. DOB:
g. GENDER: <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	h. DRIVER'S LICENSE #/STATE:	
i. EMPLOYER:	j. PHONE NUMBER:	
k. E-MAIL ADDRESS:	l. RACE:	

## PART II - PURPOSE OF VISIT

a. REQUESTED DATE(S) / TIME OF VISIT: FROM	TO
b. PURPOSE OF YOUR VISIT: <input type="checkbox"/> GRADUATION <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM <input type="checkbox"/> VISIT FAMILY <input type="checkbox"/> GOLF/BOWLING	
<input type="checkbox"/> SPECIAL EVENT (Specify below):	
<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (Specify below):	

## PART III - FORT SILL INSTALLATION ACCESS CARD/PASS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

1. I understand that I must give the Fort Sill Visitor Control Center (VCC) **consent to an initial criminal history and periodic background screenings** prior to and after the issuance of an installation access card/pass by completing Fort Sill Form 118. Failure to do so will result in the termination of the application process. I further understand that these background screenings will determine my eligibility for access and continued access during the term of my visit.

- a. I understand that my access may be revoked at anytime without reason or notice.
- b. I understand that I must properly care for my card/pass to prevent damage, or unnecessary wear.
- c. I understand that it is prohibited to allow someone else to use my card/pass.
- d. I understand that my card/pass must be turned in to the VCC once it has expired or further use is not required.
- e. I understand that I must immediately report any lost, damaged or stolen card/pass to my sponsor and the military police.
- f. I understand that my card/pass must be controlled at all times. If you have and or know where your card/pass is, then it is considered secured! If your card/pass is lost or unrecoverable, please notify your sponsor immediately.

2. I have read and understand the instructions listed above.

APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE

DATE

## PART V - ISSUING OFFICE

### SECTION BELOW IS FOR USE BY INSTALLATION ACCESS CONTROL OFFICE ONLY

a. ☐ APPROVED b. ☐ DISAPPROVED c. ☐ ACTION TAKEN (Specify below)

APPROVING OFFICIAL PRINTED NAME

APPROVING OFFICIAL SIGNATURE

DATE